

NCA  
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### JAPANESE N-P-T RATIFICATION

ANNCR:

IN TOKYO, THE JAPANESE PARLIAMENT HAS RATIFIED THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. VOA NEWS ANALYST JOSEPH SULLIVAN HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS.

VOICE:

THE NUCLEAR TREATY -- DRAFTED IN 1968 -- REQUIRES THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES NOT TO MAKE OR ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IT ALSO REQUIRES THEM TO SIGN A SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY TO GOVERN THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. JAPAN WILL BE THE NINETY-SIXTH NATION TO RATIFY THE TREATY WHEN IT FORMALLY NOTIFIES THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION, AND GREAT BRITAIN OF ITS INTENTIONS.

THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT JAPAN HAS THE RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY TO PRODUCE THE MOST SOPHISTICATED NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AND THE PAST YEAR, WITH THE FALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM TO COMMUNIST FORCES AND INCREASING TENSIONS IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA, HAS RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER JAPAN MIGHT CHOOSE TO RETAIN ITS OPTION TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. AT THE SAME TIME, SINCE INDIA'S EXPLOSION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE IN 1974, TOKYO HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN UNDER QUIET PRESSURE FROM FOREIGN QUARTERS TO RENOUNCE THAT OPTION BY RATIFYING THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

JAPAN SIGNED THE NUCLEAR TREATY IN 1970, BUT SUCCESSIVE JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS WERE UNABLE TO GAIN RATIFICATION FROM PARLIAMENT. FOR MANY FOREIGN OBSERVERS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY JAPAN -- THE ONLY NATION EVER TO EXPERIENCE AN ATOMIC ATTACK -- WAS RELUCTANT TO RATIFY THE TREATY. THE

FACT IS THAT WHILE TOKYO, GAVE ITS APPROVAL TO THE TREATY IN PRINCIPLE WITH ITS SIGNATURE SIX YEARS AGO, IT WAS NEVERTHELESS RELUCTANT TO RATIFY THE DOCUMENT BEFORE TANGIBLE PROGRESS WAS IN MADE CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITY.

TOKYO INSISTED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT BEFORE JAPAN RATIFIED THE TREATY, NATIONS WITH NUCLEAR ARMS MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD DISARMAMENT AND THAT THEY GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES. IN JAPANESE EYES, LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THESE TWO AREAS. THE JAPANESE ALSO INSISTED THAT JAPAN'S CAPACITY FOR DEVELOPING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY NOT BE RESTRICTED. THAT PROBLEM WAS RESOLVED LAST YEAR, WHEN AN AGREEMENT HAS REACHED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY UNDER WHICH INSPECTION OF JAPAN'S NUCLEAR FACILITIES WILL BE THE SAME AS THOSE ELSEWHERE.

MANY JAPANESE ALSO CONSIDERED THE TREATY TO BE UNEQUAL ... IN THAT IT RESTRICTED THE POLICY OPTIONS OF NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME ENHANCING THEIR SECURITY. BUT FEW INFLUENTIAL JAPANESE APPARENTLY STILL CLING TO THE VIEW THAT JAPAN SHOULD RETAIN ITS NUCLEAR OPTIONS FOR DIPLOMATIC BARGAINING. INDEED, THE MEMORIES OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, PLUS JAPAN'S EXTREME VULNERABILITY TO NUCLEAR ATTACK, MAKES THE THOUGHT OF FUTURE ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS REPUGNANT TO MOST JAPANESE. THEIR THINKING IS ALSO INFLUENCED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S.-JAPANESE SECURITY TREATY, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS PROVIDES WHAT'S COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS A "NUCLEAR UMBRELLA" OVER THE JAPANESE ISLANDS.

IN ANY EVENT, JAPAN'S RATIFICATION OF THE NON PROLIFERATION TREATY SHOULD DISPEL THE FEARS OF SOME THAT

THAT COUNTRY MIGHT ACQUIRE NUCLEAR ARMS, AND IS CERTAIN TO BE LAUDED IN MOST WORLD CAPITALS. IN JOINING THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION CLUB, JAPAN'S POSITION IS OBVIOUSLY ENHANCED IN REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL ARMS REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS. AND JAPANESE RATIFICATION CAN NOT HELP BUT STRENGTHEN THE NUCLEAR TREATY AND THE CONCEPT OF NON-PROLIFERATION GENERALLY.

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